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C O V E R

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S H E E T

KUBOVCIK & KUBOVCIK

The Farragut Building
Suite 710
900 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

TEL: 202-887-9023
FAX: 202-887-9093

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From: Ronald J. Kubovcik (Registration No. 25,401)
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Confirmation No. 6302

Re : Appl. No. : 10/523,416
Applicant : Takashi OCHI et al.
Filed : March 21, 2005
TC/A.U. : 1774
Examiner : Newton O. Edwards
Dkt. No. : IPE-050
Cust. No. : 20374

Document transmitted herewith: (1) RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
DATED JANUARY 24, 2006

(Due: February 24, 2006)

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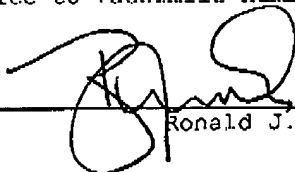
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Ronald J. Kubovcik

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT DATED JANUARY 24, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 14, 2006

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated
January 24, 2006.

In the Action, restriction is required between:

- (I) Claims 1 and 3 to 16, directed to a porous fiber of
unconnected pores;
- (II) Claim 2, directed to a porous fiber of connected

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pores;

- (III) Claims 17 to 20, 22 to 27 and 31, directed to a fiber having an islands-in-sea structure;
- (IV) Claims 21, 28 to 30 and 32, directed to a layered structure fiber;
- (V) Claims 33 to 35, directed to pellets made from a blend of polyamide and polyester;
- (VI) Claim 37, directed to a pellet made from a blend containing polyether ester
- (VII) Claims 38 to 41, directed to methods of melt-spinning a fiber.

Applicants elect the subject matter of group (III), claims 17 to 20, 22 to 27 and 31, for prosecution in this application. This election is made with traverse on the basis that claims 28 to 30 and 32 are not included in the Group (III) claims. In the present Action, claims 28 to 30 and 32 are included only with Group (IV). However, claims 28 to 30 recite a dependency on claim 17 or claim 21 and claim 32 recites a dependency on claim 30. Thus, claims 28 to 30 and 32 are directed to a fiber having an islands-in-sea structure and should be examined with the Group (III) claims.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated January 24, 2006. A favorable action on the merits of the elected subject matter is believed to be in order

U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 10/523,416
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

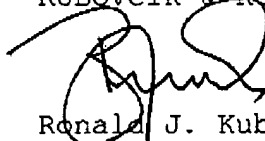
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and is respectfully solicited.

In the event any fees are required, please also charge our
Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

KUBOVCIK & KUBOVCIK



Ronald J. Kubovcik
Reg. No. 25,401

Atty. Case No. IPE-050
The Farragut Building
Suite 710
900 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: (202) 887-9023
Fax: (202) 887-9093
RJK/jbf